

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 6-9, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshida* (U.S. Patent No. 5,212,643), *De Jong et al.* (EP Patent No. 0 378 271), *Watanabe et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,494), and *Bomans et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,912); and rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshida, De Jong, Watanabe, Bomans*, and further in view of *Koyanagi et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,014).

By this Amendment, Applicants propose to amend claims 2, 6-9, and 13-15 and propose to add new claims 18-23. Claims 2, 6-9, and 13-23 are pending. Of these claims, claims 2 and 9 are independent.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2, 6-9, and 13-15 under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshida, De Jong, Watanabe*, and *Bomans*. Independent claims 2 and 9 patentably distinguish over *Yoshida, De Jong, Watanabe*, and *Bomans* at least for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 2 recites an electronic map apparatus comprising a display device for displaying a map as areas having different colors representing different geographical areas in a perspective view in accordance with map data, wherein in the perspective view, an arc of an equidistant curve is displayed as a border between two adjacent colors on the basis of the arc's display data being superimposed on the map displayed on the display device.

¹ The Final Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Independent claim 9 recites an electronic map display method comprising the steps of displaying a map as areas having different colors representing different geographical distances on a display device in a perspective view in accordance with map data, and in the perspective view, an arc of an equidistant curve is displayed as a border between two adjacent colors on the basis of the arc's display data being superimposed on the map displayed on the display device.

Yoshida discloses a vehicle-mounted navigation apparatus including a display control unit which reads road map data from a map data storage device used for storing a plurality of road map data concerning road maps with different reduced scales in accordance with a current position of the vehicle detected by a position detecting unit. The display control unit superimposes the selected scale indication pattern on the selected road map. (*Yoshida*, Abstract).

As admitted by the Examiner, however, *Yoshida* does not “explicitly teach displaying the map in a perspective view.” (*Office Action*, p. 4, line 1).

To cure the deficiencies of *Yoshida*, the Examiner relies on *De Jong* for its asserted disclosure of “a method geared toward vehicle navigation that displays part of a map in a perspective view. See col. 1, lines 40-46.” (*Office Action*, p. 4, ll. 2-3). The Examiner further asserts, “[w]hile the original distance from the center of the circle or arc of equidistant curve in *Yoshida* is displayed in plane view, it is not explicitly clear that the distance in the perspective view map of *Yoshida* and *De Jong* is displayed in plane view.” (*Id.* at p. 4, ll. 8-10). Accordingly, the Examiner relies on *Watanabe* and alleges “*Watanabe* . . . shows text in a plane view within a perspective view map. See Figs. 11B, 12E, and 27.” (*Id.* at p. 4, ll. 12-13).

The Examiner further asserts “Yoshida, De Jong, and Watanabe fail to explicitly disclose that the microcomputer changes the color of a distance display arc to a supplementary color of a drawn portion.” (*Office Action*, p. 5, ll. 17-18). Consequently, the Examiner relies on *Bomans* and alleges, “Bomans . . . teaches a navigational system in which a microcomputer changes the color of a displayed object to a supplemental color that ‘stands out clearly from the background of the screen.’ See col. 5, lines 10-14.” (*Id.* at p. 5, line 20 - p. 6, line 1).

Yoshida, De Jong, Watanabe, and Bomans, even if combined as suggested by the Examiner, however, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination, including “a display device for displaying said map as areas having different colors representing different geographical areas in a perspective view in accordance with said map data . . . wherein in said perspective view, said arc of the equidistant curve is displayed as a border between two adjacent colors on the basis of said arc’s display data being superimposed on said map displayed on said display device,” as recited in claim 2; and “displaying said map as areas having different colors representing different geographical distances on a display device in a perspective view in accordance with said map data . . . [wherein] in said perspective view, said arc of equidistant curve [is] displayed as a border between two adjacent colors on the basis of said arc’s display data being superimposed on said map displayed on said display device,” as recited in claim 9 (emphases added).

Moreover, none of the cited references teach or suggest “displaying, in the perspective view, numbers each indicating a geographical distance from said center to one of said arcs at a location in close proximity to the circumference of said arc,” as

recited by claim 1 (emphasis added). The Examiner concedes that *Yoshida* does not teach or suggest a perspective view. *Office Action* at 4; *Yoshida*, Fig. 3. The Examiner, however, asserts that *Yoshida* “outputs numbers (1, 2, 3) indicating a geographical distance . . .” *Office Action* at 5, and that *De Jong* discloses a “perspective view.” *Office Action* at 4. But even if *Yoshida* discloses numbers and *De Jong* discloses a perspective view, it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine *Yoshida* and *De Jong* to arrive at the claimed “displaying, in the perspective view, numbers each indicating a geographical distance from said center to one of said arcs at a location in close proximity to the circumference of said arc” (emphasis added).

With reference to Applicant’s Fig. 4 showing a perspective view, as the geographical distance to each equidistant arc increases, each arc appears more like a straight line or an ellipse rather than a circle. For example, line 42 indicating 50m is closer to a circle on the display than the line for 800m. Therefore, indicating geographical distances in the perspective view is more important because the distance between each line is not as readily understood by a user compared to the plane view. Neither *Yoshida* nor *De Jong*, taken individually or in combination, addresses this need.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2, 6-9, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants submit that new claims 18-26 are allowable at least due to their corresponding dependence from independent claims 2 and 9.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshida*, *De Jong*, *Watanabe*, and *Bomans*, and

further in view of *Koyanagi*. The deficiencies of *Yoshida*, *De Jong*, *Watanabe*, and *Bomans* are described above.

With respect to *Koyanagi*, the Examiner alleges, “*Koyanagi* describes an electronic map apparatus and method that displays grid lines or latitude and longitudinal lines to show a scale on a perspective view of a map to give the user a sense of distance . . . *Koyanagi* discloses the use of a bird’s eye view . . . to give the user a more realistic view of the map . . .” (*Final Office Action*, p. 7, ll. 10-14).

Such teaching, even if present in *Koyanagi*, however, fails to teach or suggest “a display device for displaying said map as areas having different colors representing different geographical areas in a perspective view in accordance with said map data . . . wherein in said perspective view, said arc of the equidistant curve is displayed as a border between two adjacent colors on the basis of said arc’s display data being superimposed on said map displayed on said display device,” as recited in claim 2; and “displaying said map as areas having different colors representing different geographical distances on a display device in a perspective view in accordance with said map data . . . [wherein] in said perspective view, said arc of equidistant curve [is] displayed as a border between two adjacent colors on the basis of said arc’s display data being superimposed on said map displayed on said display device,” as recited in claim 9. Thus, *Koyanagi* also fails to overcome the above noted shortcomings of *Yoshida*, *De Jong*, *Watanabe*, and *Bomans*, and claims 16 and 17 are allowable at least due to their corresponding dependence from independent claims 2 and 9.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 2, 6-9, and 13-23 in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully point out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicants further submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

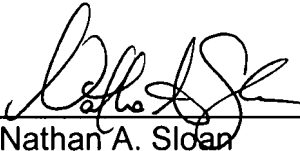
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 20, 2007

By: _____



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